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Syria now in full-scale civil war: UN

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria is now in a full-scale civil war, UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said on Tuesday, as UN observers reported they were fired on as they tried to enter a town feared to be the focus of a new massacre.

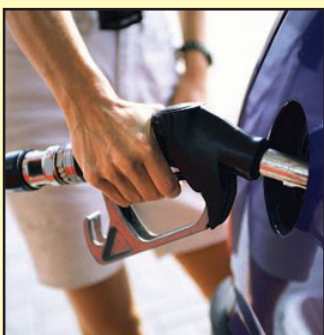
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned that Washington would find it hard to support the extension of the observer mission beyond next month if the government of

President Bashar al-Assad's regime continued to show "contempt" for a UN-backed ceasefire that was supposed to go into effect from April 12.

Asked whether he believed Syria is in a civil war, Ladsous told reporters: "Yes I think we can say that. Clearly what is happening is that the government of Syria lost some large chunks of territory, several cities to the opposition, and wants to retake control."

Continued on pg 7

Oil product prices drop as of today



ORANJESTAD – The Ministry of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs announces to the general public that as of today, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, there will be changes in different oil product prices.

- The new price for unleaded-premium gas will be **235.2** cent per liter, a decrease of 17.1 cent per liter

- The new price for diesel LS will be **204.6** cent per liter, a decrease of 12.7 cent per liter.

- The new price for kerosin will be **200.2** cent per liter, a decrease of 12.8 cent per liter

In the new prices the BBO is already included.

Pan American Conference on Obesity opens at the Westin Resort



Dr Jim Whitehead, Dr. Hutber, Dr. Roberto Lobelo, Minister Visser

With little fanfare, but great gravitas, the 2nd Pan American Conference on Obesity, PACO, began on Monday with four days of essential workshops prior to the official commencement of the conference on Friday, June 15.

Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visser, campaigned for office on the platform of taking active measures against childhood obesity and the eventual chronic conditions to which it contributes. The PACO is part of the promise, aside from his instigation of various programs to get islanders out and exercising.

Opening the first workshop, he had some good news and bad news; the good: in 2004 surveys revealed only 9% of the Aruban population was actively exercising, that figure now stands at 39%. However, the same survey showed 36% of the youth suffered with obesity, now it is 41%; among adults, the number rose from 77% to 81%.

The first workshop was titled "Exercise is Medicine," with a panel of visiting lectures. Dr. Jim Whitehead, Executive Vice President of American College of Sports Medicine and CEO of the Exercise is Medicine Global

Health Initiative acted as moderator for the evening. Keynote speaker was Medical Epidemiologist for the CDC for Global Health Promotion, Dr. Roberto Felipe Lobelo, and Chair of the EIM Pediatric Committee.

Also presenting was Dr. Adrian Hutber, Vice President of the Exercise is Medicine American College of Sport Medicine. His topic was an outline of the program to introduce exercise into medical programs and creating a National Task Force to accomplish this.

Dr. Lobelo explained the research and findings that have prompted the movement to recognize exercise as a treatment for a number of ailments and as a prophylactic treatment against untimely

mortality, and training doctors to prescribe it as they would cholesterol medicine or insulin. The program does not encourage the complete substitution of exercise for needed medications, but the recognition of the effectiveness of reducing and preventing chronic illnesses through physical activity.

Dr. Lobelo's figures presented a compelling argument, beyond the simple common sense that regular exercise and physical fitness are naturally desirable. Physical activity should be examined on a number of levels, not only what is traditionally considered as a physical workout or active involvement in sports, but also integrated into daily actions.

Continued on pg 2



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Aruba Hospital plans Guidance & Info sessions for future parents



Since last year the Aruba Hospital has been offering guidance and information sessions for expecting mothers and parents, organized by their Delivery and Maternity Department.

Each of these sessions are gratis and are held in their Conference Hall at the Hospital from 7 o' clock in the evening.

This month the sessions will take place on the 13th and 20th of June. The ses-

sions are designed to make future parents aware of the delivery process and of what breast feeding entails. The future parents will also be given a complete tour of the delivery and maternity departmentand a lot more.

During the first day of the session the emphasis will be on a normal birth situation and on complications that may occur during such a birth process. They also provide information concerning the Delivery Room.

On the second day information concerning the maternity department, breast feeding, as well as a guided tour of the Delivery Room and the Maternity department. Every month they invite a special speaker to give the information.

A special invitation is extended to all future mothers, fathers and family interested in receiving this valuable information. It is so important to be adequately informed as future parents. Please call the secretary of the Delivery Room and become a part of the next sessions planned for the 19th and 21st of October. Call telephone: 527-4412 between 8 am and 2pm in the afternoon.

Pan American Conference on Obesity opens at the Westin Resort

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A surprise Zumba session by Annaloes

Housework or a profession that is more demanding than sitting at a desk should also be factored in when prescribing an exercise program as medication.

He explained that studies indicated increased physical strength helps prevent cancer, and that increasing fitness had definitive results in markedly reducing risk factors of mortality in cases of diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, among smokers, obesity, and particularly cardiovascular disease, equal to or often surpassing prescribed medication. He also admitted that doctors require more training in understanding the exact forms of exercise and in what dosages to prescribe it, as different conditions require different regimens, just as when writing a prescription for various medicines depending on the needs of the individual patient. Overwhelming results in case studies showed that increased activity and fitness, done in a controlled manner, improved chronic conditions, even among heart patients who had percutaneous coronary intervention with stent implants.

The stories of individuals having fatal coronaries indulging in a sport or while simply shoveling snow are almost always due to the fact the individual was indulging in an extremely demanding physical activity for which they were wholly unprepared. For those suffering with obesity, an exercise program should commence with caution, eventually increasing to

lifestyle.

When first introducing the speakers, Dr. Whitehead pointed out that the entire of purpose of the lecture was defeated by the idea of everyone sitting unmoving to hear the speakers, and encouraged all attending to walk around; the point the discussion was further punctuated by Zumba instructor Annalouse appearing to lead all in 5 minutes of physical activity.

The evening ended with a panel discussion and Q & A.

Tuesday's program was dedicated to physical activity prescriptions for different population subgroups such as children, adolescents and adults, whether obese or suffering with a chronic disease and the shifting of medical care in Aruba towards maintaining health as a means of treatment.

In 2011, Dr. Visser welcomed several health experts on the subject of obesity and the ramifications for society, followed by his presenting their findings to the United Nations in New York. This second conference is about putting definitive programs in place

and turning around traditional medical practices. Workshops include examining the costs to the health care system caused by obesity and particular attention to preventing childhood obesity. A complete schedule can be viewed at: <http://www.paco.aw>

The official conference will begin on Friday morning at the Westin with a welcome by Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman.

By Rosalie Klein

A call for action

“What if there was one prescription that could prevent and treat dozens of diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity? Would you prescribe it to your patients?”



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Aruba Tourism Authority announces May 2012 tourism results

May 2012 was a tremendous month for Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), actually, for Aruba this was a good month. They reported a 1.21% tourism increase in the amount of visitors compared to May 2011. This amounted to 66,057 visitors, while the amount in May 2011 was 65,268. In absolute figures this was a difference of 789 more visitors than in May 2011.

While the majority of countries in the Latin American markets showed an increase, the European and North American markets declined.

North America:

The North American region had a drop in the month of May by 1.9% and the American market, our primary market, had a decrease



of 1.1%. The numbers indicate decreases in the primary regions, which are the Northeast with 11%, Western with 11.4%, Mid-west with 3%, while the Southeast had an increase of 4.4% and the Mid Atlantic region an increase of 1.8%.

The Canadian market showed a decrease in May of 15.9% compared to the figures of May 2011.

Nonetheless, ATA expects the Canadian market will rebound by the end of the year with an increase, because of recent advances.

With respect to the US, different factors play a role in the decrease in this region; one of those factors is air service. ATA is working diligently toward improving the situation. They announced recently that as of December

15 of this year, Delta Airlines will begin daily flights to Aruba from JFK instead of the current weekly flights. One other strong factor is the strong competition which exists in our traditional markets and the still weak economic situation keeping Americans from travelling as they did previously.

Europe:

The European market had a decrease of 7.15%. The German market grew by 45.3%, followed by Belgium with 21.5%. Holland dropped by 0.6% and Italy also had a drop due to the charters that are no longer flying to Aruba. England dropped with 17.8% compared to 2011 which can be attributed primarily to the economic situation in this country.

Latin America:

The Latin American market had an increase of 10.19% compared to May 2011. This market grew by May led by Venezuela who had an increase of 29.2% compared to May 2011. This is equal to 6630 visitors from Venezuela in May 2012. This is 1503 more visitors than in May 2011. Argentina followed with an increase of 18.8% compared to 2011. The Brazilian market fell by 14.6% compared to May 2011 and Colombia by 1.1%. The amount of airline seats dropped, which means that whenever Argentina grows this will influence the situation of available seats for Colombia and Brazil. They are working hard on finding a solution for this challenge...perhaps a solution will be more flights from Brazil.

Continued on pg 5



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The Aruba Nights and Cuba's Cookin' team



A toast to Aruba nights



Douglas Markus and his PR team

Douglas Markus, publisher of Aruba Nights, the welcome book found in every room of resorts belonging to the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, AHATA, was proud to welcome friends and island dignitaries to his Cuba Cookin' restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace for the grand 25th anniversary celebration of this well known local magazine. Aruba Nights is widely distributed around the island in a soft cover edition, but it is the classic hardcover that greets most visitors on arrival, with lively articles and photographs informing on island life.

It was a stylish soiree on Saturday evening, June 9, staged by Marcus and Vibration PR, with guests walking the red carpet to be welcomed by refreshing mojitos, many dressed in outfits with a definitive Cuban flair.

It was a sparkling evening of celebration, worthy of the magazine that has been welcoming visitors for 25 years.

By Rosalie Klein

FREE movies at the IPA tonight



Classical Steel

Working in collaboration with filmmaker Rigoberto Lopez, Cuban filmmaker and President of the Traveling Caribbean Film Showcase, the Aruba International Film Festival has been conducting a program of screenings of seven films produced regionally which are felt to be of particular interest to island youth.

The educational program sponsored by Digicel telecommunications providers aims not only to promote the appreciation of filmmaking and to perhaps inspire youth to pursue it as a career, but to also harbor greater understanding and compassion for the other societies within the Caribbean. The screenings have been taking place at the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad.

Two of these films, "Brooklyn Racine," from Haiti and "Classical Steel" from Trinidad and Tobago will be shown in San Nicolas at the

IPA School, beginning at 7:00 PM tonight. They are short films, the first only 12 minutes long, the second 43 minutes. Both examine the cultural influences intertwined with the music traditional to these two islands; for Haiti, their famous drums, and Trinidad and Tobago, the steelpan. Both movies are in English.

The evening was organized by Mirto Lacle, educational program coordinator for the AIFF, and he expressed the hope that many will come to enjoy the films, as a large part of the San Nicolas community is comprised of expatriates from around the region, and he is certain they will enjoy the content, as well as the understanding these films promote of the various groups who now live on Aruba. There is not charge for entrance.

For more information, contact Mirto Lacle at 740-2044.



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Obama rejects Romney's 'Twitter' message

Owings Mills, Maryland (AFP) - A sarcastic US President Barack Obama Tuesday said the theme of his rival Mitt Romney's presidential campaign could fit on a tweet with letters to spare -- "it's Obama's fault."

Obama told supporters in Maryland that his policies at

a time of economic misery had been able to "right the ship a little bit" but that he needed a second term to "lock in" progress and growth.

"The good news is, the American people generally agree with our vision,"

Obama said.

"If you just put in front of them issue after issue and you present the Democratic approach and the Republican approach, we win."

"The challenge is because folks are still hurting right now, the other side feels that it's enough for them to just sit back and say, 'things aren't as good as they should be and it's Obama's fault.'"

"And, you can pretty much put their campaign on... a tweet and have some characters to spare."

Brendan Buck, a spokesman for Republican House Speaker John Boehner, quickly hit back at Obama's remark -- on Twitter.

"Methinks the President's silly attack on GOP message shows frustration that he doesn't have a consistent message at all," Buck wrote.

Aides said Obama's intent is to draw sharp distinctions between his approach and that of Romney, who he believes would weight the economy towards the richest Americans and hurt the middle classes.

ATA announces May 2012 tourism results

Continued from pg 3

Impact from Soul Beach Music Festival:

ATA compared the figures with respect to the amount of visitors who came for Soul Beach this year with the amount who came during the same period for Soul Beach last year. Dates for last year's Soul Beach festival was May 25 to 29, and this year the dates were May 23 to 27. In those 5 days Aruba saw a visitor's increase of 16.7% compared to 2011. The amount of visitors who came to the island in those days surpassed 14,600. There was a remarkable increase in visitors from Surinam which grew by 62%

and from Curacao which also grew by 75%. Important to mention is that the increase in those days of the Festival came from all visitor groups and not just from those who came specifically for the Festival.

According to ATA, the challenges continue especially for the US market. ATA and their partners are working hard on combating the "softness" that may occur from the various markets. Additional budget has been allocated to boost wherever a boost is needed for the rest of this year.

Wife of Florida shooting suspect arrested for perjury

MIAMI (AFP) - The wife of the Florida neighborhood watch volunteer charged with second degree murder for shooting dead an unarmed black teenager was arrested herself Tuesday for giving false testimony about her husband's finances.

"Shellie Zimmerman (25) was booked on a perjury charge, with bond set at \$1,000.

She is currently in the process of posting bond," a sheriff's spokeswoman told AFP.

George Zimmerman, 28, the watch volunteer who returned to jail June 3, shot Trayvon Martin dead on February 26 as the 17-year-old was returning from a run to a local store in Sanford, Florida to buy a drink and some candy.



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Israel arrests 240 immigrants in mass round-up



EILAT (AFP) - Israel's mass round-up of mainly African immigrants had netted a total of 240 people by Tuesday and the interior ministry said that another 300 people had agreed to be repatriated voluntarily.

The arrests bring the total number detained for deportation since Sunday to 240, most of them South Sudanese.

On Sunday, raids saw police round up some 25 immigrants, around a third of them from South Sudan, and the campaign gathered speed on Monday, when 115 people were arrested, many of them in the Red Sea town of Eilat, close to where they crossed into Israel from Egypt.

Those who agree to leave Is-

rael voluntarily will receive free airline tickets and a grant of 1,000 euros (\$1,250), but the offer is "only on the table for one week," Population and Migration Authority spokeswoman Sabine Haddad told AFP.

Official figures show there are 60,000 Africans living in Israel illegally, most of whom live in run-down neighbourhoods of south Tel Aviv. Interior Minister Eli Yishai estimates that another 6,000 or so may have slipped into the country undetected.

Around a quarter of the total are living in Eilat, where an AFP correspondent saw immigration police stopping African passers-by and asking for iden-

tification.

Nearby, native-born resident Yusef Khuri sat at a small table gathering signatures to urge the authorities to rid the city of its African immigrants, flanked by posters reading: "Free conquered Eilat."

"They have wrecked our country and have taken over every aspect of our lives," he spat. "They are border jumpers, they should be shot."

Last week, an Israeli court decided that the lives of an estimated 1,500 South Sudanese were no longer at risk in their homeland, clearing the way for their mass expulsion.

The interior minister, who has frequently tried to expel non-Jewish immigrants, sparking accusations of racism, on Tuesday said the raids were "just the beginning."

"At the moment we are permitted only to deport citizens of South Sudan and the Ivory Coast," Yishai wrote in the Israel HaYom newspaper.

"The next stage is the removal from Israel of all the infiltrators from Eritrea and Sudan."

Allowing them to stay would mean "the end of the Zionist dream," he warned.

Rising tensions over the growing number of illegal immigrants entering Israel exploded into violence last month when a protest in south Tel Aviv turned nasty. Demonstrators smashed African-run shops and property, chanting "Blacks out!"

Israel, which reportedly backed South Sudan through its 1983-2005 war with Khartoum, recognised the new nation and established full diplomatic relations with its government shortly after it declared independence in July last year.

The Jewish state does not have relations with Sudan, which it has accused of serving as a base for Islamic militants.

Russia sending attack helicopters to Syria: Clinton

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton accused Russia Tuesday of sending attack helicopters to Syria, saying Moscow is lying about its arms shipments.

"We are concerned about the latest information we have that there are attack helicopters on the way from Russia to Syria, which will escalate the conflict quite dramatically," Clinton told a think-tank discussion in Washington.

"There's no doubt the onslaught continues the use of heavy artillery and the like. We have confronted the Russians about stopping their continued arms shipments to Syria," she told the discussion at the Brookings Institution.

"They have from time to

time said we shouldn't worry, that everything they're shipping is unrelated to their actions internally. That's patently untrue."

Clinton pointed out that UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan was now trying to put together a contact group to work on a road map for a political transition that would see Syrian President Bashar al-Assad step aside.

The group would "include Russia," Clinton said, adding the United States was in agreement with that.

"Russia has increasingly said that it was not defending Assad, but it worried about what came after Assad and that it would work on political transition," Clinton said.

Fourteen bodies found in eastern Mexico

XALAPA (AFP) - The bodies of at least 14 people were discovered Tuesday in an abandoned pickup truck in the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz, the scene of a violent turf war between drug gangs, prosecutors said.

Alerted by an anonymous call late Monday, authorities found the body-laden vehicle parked on a road in the town of Tuxpan near the border with the state of Tamaulipas, the state prosecutor's office said.

"At 7 am (1300 GMT) today, forensic experts determined that the remains were those of 14 persons," it said in a statement.

The northern border state of Tamaulipas is a stronghold of the Zetas drug gang, which has been locked in conflict with the Sinaloa cartel and the Gulf cartel.

On May 4, 14 mutilated bodies were discovered in the

Tamaulipas city of Nuevo Laredo, on the border with Laredo, Texas. Earlier that day nine bodies were found hanging from an overpass in Nuevo Laredo.

Nuevo Laredo and the roads leading to the border town are key smuggling routes, as 40 percent of all cargo crossing northbound into the United States from Mexico goes through the city.

On June 7, 14 dismembered bodies were found in an abandoned cargo vehicle, which was illegally parked near city hall in Ciudad Mante in northeastern Mexico, two months after police found 10 bodies in the two, some of them decapitated.

Last September, 35 bodies were left dumped in trucks in broad daylight in a heavily used road in the port of Veracruz, just before the start of a conference of prosecutors from around the country.

Police arrest 15-yr-old Ottawa girls for human trafficking

MONTREAL (AFP) - Two 15-year-old girls have been arrested for human trafficking in Ottawa and another 17-year-old girl was being sought Tuesday for her alleged role in forcing teens into prostitution, police said.

"It's shocking," police spokesman Staff Sergeant John McGetrick said of the pimping case.

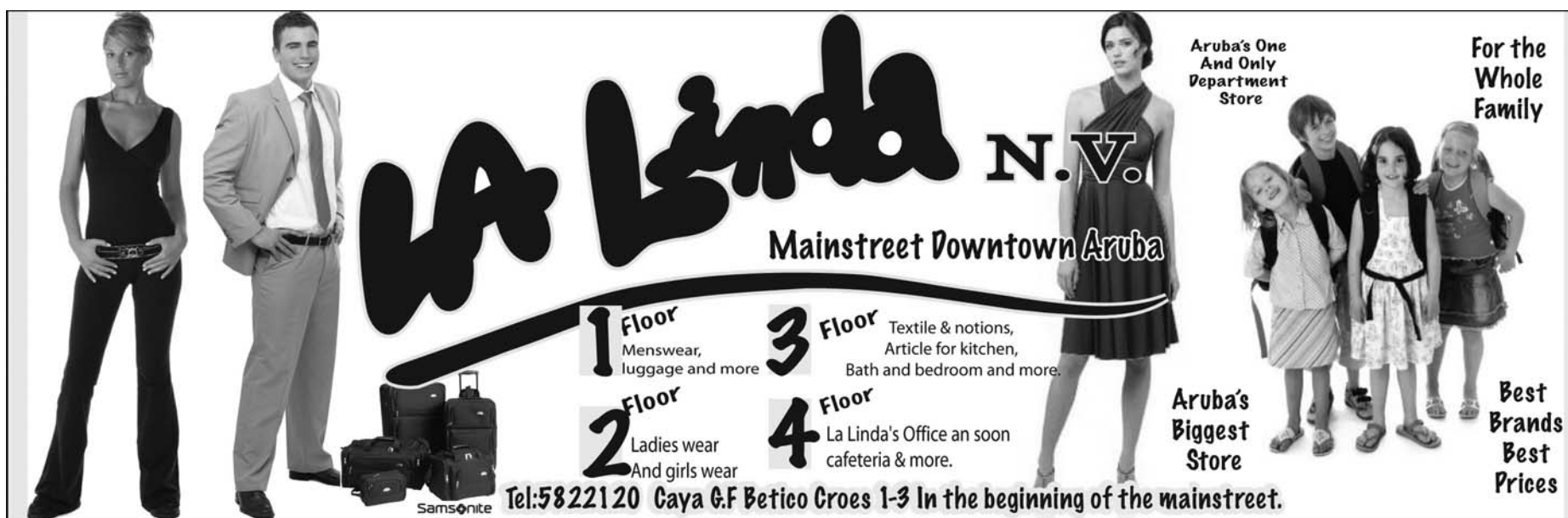
Ottawa police said they found three female victims, aged 13 to 17 years, who had been lured to a Walkley Road residence in a middle class

neighborhood of the city, abducted and delivered up to adult clients.

The two accused girls, both 15, face multiple charges including human trafficking, robbery, procuring, forcible confinement, sexual assault, assault, uttering threats and abduction.

Police are continuing to look for a third suspect, a 17-year-old girl.

The names of those arrested cannot be released under Canadian law.



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International News

Syria now in full-scale civil war: UN



The under secretary general for peacekeeping operations is the most senior UN official to indicate he believes there is a civil war. UN leader Ban Ki-moon said last week that he believed it was "imminent".

The UN Supervision Mission in Syria had been trying to reach the northwestern town of Al-Haffe, a Sunni Muslim enclave in a region mainly populated by members of Assad's Alawite minority, where hundreds of civilians are reported trapped by an army siege of holed up rebel fighters.

The mission said it had received reports of "a large number of civilians, including women and children trapped inside the town and are trying to mediate their evacuation."

At least 120 people have been killed in the fighting in and around Al-Haffe over the past week, including 68 troops, 29 civilians and 23 rebel fighters, with hundreds wounded, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The UN observers were forced to abandon their attempt to reach the town on Tuesday when an angry crowd in a nearby pro-government village threw rocks and metal bars at them, and unknown assailants then fired on them.

Separately, a UN official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the crowd that surrounded the UN convoy was carrying government flags and that at least 20 bullets hit the car carrying the observers.

The United States has voiced concerns that the regime is planning to carry out new atrocities, after the massacre of 55 people last week in Al-Kubeir and at least 108

near Houla in late May.

UNSMIS is "a peacekeeping force when there is definitely no peace to observe, that summarizes the situation," he said.

With the mission's mandate due to end on July 20, the United Nations and the UN Security Council are studying "various options" on its future, Ladsous said. A central element would be to see whether a political dialogue can be started.

Clinton said that renewing the mission would be difficult without progress in implementing the six-point peace plan brokered by UN-Arab League envoy Annan, above all the elusive ceasefire.

The Syrian government hit back accusing Washington of siding with the rebels in their armed uprising which inflicted mounting losses on the security forces this month.



CANBERRA (AFP) - Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton shows her daughter's Azaria's death certificate as ex-husband Michael Chamberlain (left) looks on after a coroner ruled that a dingo snatched baby Azaria Chamberlain from a tent in the Australian desert 32 years ago ending a 32-year legal mystery over the death of a baby, a coroner found a dingo was responsible for killing infant Azaria Chamberlain, a case that split national opinion and attracted global headlines. The coroner's finding ends a three-decade fight for justice by Azaria's parents, Michael Chamberlain and Lindy Chamberlain, who was jailed for three years over her daughter's death before she was later cleared.

11 Haitians die, 12 missing in boat sinking

MIAMI (AFP) - Searchers have recovered the bodies of 11 Haitians who died in the sinking of a small, overcrowded boat off the Bahamas, and 12 others are missing, US and Bahamian authorities said Tuesday.

Several children were among the dead and missing from the sinking, said Loretta Mackey, a spokeswoman for the The Royal Bahamas Police in Freeport, Grand Bahama told AFP.

Mackey said five people survived the sinking of the 26-foot (7.5-meter) boat, which was crowded with 28 people when it left Haiti.

A US Coast Guard

spokesman earlier said the boat broke up off Hawksbill Cay in the Bahamas on its way to the United States.

Survivors who managed to swim to shore reported the sinking to Bahamian police, who alerted the US Coast Guard on Monday, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios.

Rios and Mackey both said the bodies of 13 people had been recovered in search operations that were still ongoing on Tuesday.

Overcrowded boats of migrants regularly try to make it to the coast of Florida from poor countries in the Caribbean like Haiti and Cuba.

Firefighters battle huge blazes across US West

DENVER (AFP) - Hundreds more firefighters were ordered in Tuesday to fight the biggest wildfire in a decade in Colorado, as federal agencies scrambled to help tackle blazes in several western US states.

More than 500 firefighters were attacking the blaze and plans were to have as many as 700 to 800 by today, said officials. Aircraft, including five of the nine heavy air tankers available nationwide, were being used.

The fire, dubbed the High Park Fire, broke out early Saturday near Fort Collins, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) northwest of Denver.

The blaze has mushroomed to 43,000 acres (17,200 hectares), making it the third largest in Colorado history, having more than doubled to 39,000 acres from Sunday to Monday.

The fire has claimed one life, a 62-year-old woman whose remains were found in the ashes of her burnt-out cabin. The cause of the fire has been confirmed as lightning.

In neighboring New Mexico, meanwhile, firefighters said better weather conditions Monday had enabled them to make progress on containing a fire that has ravaged more than 36,000 acres.



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Health & Living

Zurich hosts dignity in death debate



ZURICH (AFP) - Groups supporting the right to hasten dying will meet in Zurich this week for a global conference on assisted suicide, reigniting the debate on dignified death.

Representatives from about 45 countries are expected at the five-day congress of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies, held every two years.

The venue of the 2012 meeting honours the 30th anniversary of Zurich-based Exit, a group carrying out assisted suicides in Switzerland where the practice is legal under certain conditions.

The conference will hear from acclaimed British fantasy author Sir Terry Pratchett, himself diagnosed with Alzheimer's several years ago and patron of pro-choice group Dignity in Dying.

Pratchett will address the conference during its open day on Friday along with Ludwig Minelli, founder of Swiss assisted suicide group Dignitas, and German writer Ueli Oswald whose father died with Exit.

The meeting is otherwise reserved for members of the Federation.

The congress, last held in Melbourne in 2010, will also see the detractors of assisted dying have their say.

Human Life International (HLI) Switzerland, which campaigns on abortion, con-

traception, sex education and euthanasia, plans to hold a demonstration on the fringes of the forum on Friday.

"Our aim is to put other arguments to the visitors of the congress. We are going to organise discussions and we will be there at the entrance (of the conference) to distribute leaflets," said secretary Christoph Keel.

Sutter from Exit says he is "completely accepting" of different views.

"It's just a shame that the opposite camp is not tolerant too," he said.

Three hundred Swiss residents died in assisted suicides in 2009, nine out of 10 of them aged over 55, according to official statistics published for the first time in March this year.

The Swiss Federal Statistics Office data does not take into account foreigners who come to Switzerland for assisted suicide.

Between 1998 and 2011, Dignitas helped 1,169 non-nationals die, mostly Germans (664), followed by patients from Britain (182) and France (117).

Exit meanwhile stipulates that clients must be resident in Switzerland.

Swiss law says a person may be given "passive" or "indirect active" assistance to suicide, such as being supplied with a lethal dose of a drug,

provided it is not done for selfish motives or for gain.

The government last year rejected proposals to tighten the rules.

Politicians had considered imposing certain "duties of care" to employees of organisations offering assisted suicide and an outright ban on the groups altogether.

Later reproduction may extend offspring's life: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The offspring of fathers and grandfathers who reproduced later in life could enjoy life-extending genetic benefits, including being able to father children at an older age, a new study suggests.

Researchers at Northwestern University believe the process represents an unusually rapid evolutionary adaptation in which telomeres -- DNA found at the ends of chromosomes -- lengthen, which is thought to promote healthy aging.

"If your father and grandfather were able to live and reproduce at a later age, this might predict that you yourself live in an environment that is somewhat similar -- an envi-

ronment with less accidental deaths or in which men are only able to find a partner at later ages," said Dan Eisenberg, lead author of the study.

After analyzing the DNA of 1,779 young adults and their mothers in the Philippines, researchers found that children of older fathers not only inherit longer telomeres, but that the effect is cumulative across generations.

The researchers do not advise men to reproduce at later ages, as other research has shown that doing so raises the risk of passing on genetic mutations that can cause miscarriages or other health problems.

Co-author Christopher Kuzawa said more research would be necessary to see if the longer telomeres inherited from older fathers and grandfathers reduce the health problems and ailments that come with age.

years of therapy.

The court gave Yang Ting a one-year suspended sentence and ordered him to pay a 50,000-euro (\$62,000) fine and 150,000 euros in total damages to the two patients.

The two victims, lawyer Sophie Poirot and entrepreneur Bernard Touchebeuf, had paid out 238,000 euros and 750,000 euros respectively over the years to Yang Ting, who charged them 320 euros per hour.

French psychotherapist fined for implanting memories

PARIS (AFP) - A French court on Tuesday convicted a Parisian psychotherapist with abuse and ordered him to pay thousands of euros in fines and damages for implanting false memories of trauma in two of his patients.

In a case reminiscent of the mind-bending Hollywood film "Inception", prosecutors had denounced Benoit Yang Ting, 76, as a "charlatan" and accused him of implanting false memories in the patients over

They said they attended grueling sessions with the therapist, who would make them strip naked and then claim to awaken suppressed memories.

Poirot said she endured false memories of sexual abuse while Touchebeuf said he had been made to falsely recall his mother stabbing him with a knitting needle while he was still in her womb.

Yang Ting did not attend the court proceedings for health reasons.



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Dinner

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US freezer failure damages brains for research

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A freezer failure at a major US brain bank has damaged 54 brain samples that were supposed to be used for autism research, officials said on Tuesday.

The reasons for the freezer malfunction remain unclear, said the Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center (HBTRC) at McLean Hospital, which is the largest federally funded brain bank in the United States.

"A full investigation has been launched to determine what caused the freezer, as well as two alarm systems that should have been triggered by the rising temperature, to fail," said the HBTRC statement.

The damaged samples were part of a collection of 3,000 brain samples that the center keeps for research -- both US and international -- into disorders such as autism, Parkinson's disease, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease.

"This was a priceless collection," Francine Benes, director of the Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center, told the Boston Globe. "You can't express its value in dollar amounts."

One expert told the newspaper that the loss could cause a decade-long setback to autism research.

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Sci-Tech



Attendees look at the new MacBook Pro that is displayed at the 2012 Apple WWDC keynote address at the Moscone Center on June 11, 2012 in San Francisco, California.

Apple enlists TomTom as Siri heads for cars

(AFP) - In-car navigation firm TomTom on Tuesday said it has inked a deal to provide map information to Apple, which a day earlier introduced its own mapping service for iPhones and iPads.

Apple on Monday showcased modifications to its mobile device operating software

that included kicking Google Maps to the curb and replacing it with a customized mapping program.

During a presentation at the start of its annual Worldwide Developers Conference, Apple said that it is working with car makers to build Siri artificial intelligence technology into voice control systems in automobiles.

"Through the voice command button on your steering wheel, you'll be able to ask Siri questions without taking your eyes off the road," Apple said at a website page describing improvements coming with the iOS 6 operating system.

"With the Eyes Free feature, ask Siri to call people, select and play music, hear and compose text messages, use Maps and get directions, read your notifications, find calendar information, add reminders, and more."

Siri, which debuted with the iPhone 4S, is being extended to recent-generation iPads.

Eyes Free mode enables people to interact with iPhones "using nothing more than your voice," according to Apple.



A blue dragonfly (platycnemis pennipes) rests on a reed at the edge of a small lake near Briesen, Germany. AFP Photo



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International team starts sea-based asteroid drills



(AFP) An international team of aquanauts has begun training at a lab deep in the Atlantic Ocean for an eventual visit to an asteroid, NASA said.

The scientists, astronauts and engineers making up the 16th excursion of NASA's Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) come from the United States and the space agencies of Japan and Europe.

They began their latest 12-day mission on Monday at the Aquarius lab, off the coast of Florida, which provides an environment similar to what it would be like to navigate near-weightless on an asteroid.

"Aquarius provides a convincing simulation to space exploration, and NEEMO crew members experience some of the same tasks and challenges

under water that they would in space," NASA said in a statement.

The ocean-floor outpost is located three miles (4.5 kilometers) off the coast of Key Largo, Florida, where it has provided lodging and life support systems for underwater scientists since 1993.

NASA has been sending astronauts to the undersea lab 63 feet (19 meters) down for weeks-long space training missions since 2001.

The latest effort is a new push to get ready for an asteroid trip that President Barack Obama has said could happen by 2025.

The commander of the mission is NASA astronaut Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger.

The crew includes European Space Agency astronaut

Timothy Peake of Britain, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Kimiya Yui and Steven Squyres who is professor of astronomy at Cornell University and chairman of the NASA Advisory Council.

The last NEEMO expedition was in October 2011.



15 MINUTE
ENGLISH
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ACROSS

1. Castor, to Pollux
5. African lake
9. From ___ Z (2 wds.)
12. Extinct creature
13. Lynx's hideaway
14. Swamp's kin
15. Uppity one
16. ___ mater
17. Departure's opposite (abbr.)
18. Went first
20. ___ Carlo
22. Couldn't stand
25. Fragment
27. Break, like a balloon
28. Engine part
30. Madrid "hurrah"
31. ___ into (trash)
32. Biblical land
34. Get one's ___ up (become angry)
37. Actor Martin
39. 1921 Valentino film, with "The"
40. ___ wave
41. Abdul or Prentiss
43. Song from "Annie"
44. Austria's cont.
45. 10-cent coin
48. Model Heidi
52. Consumed

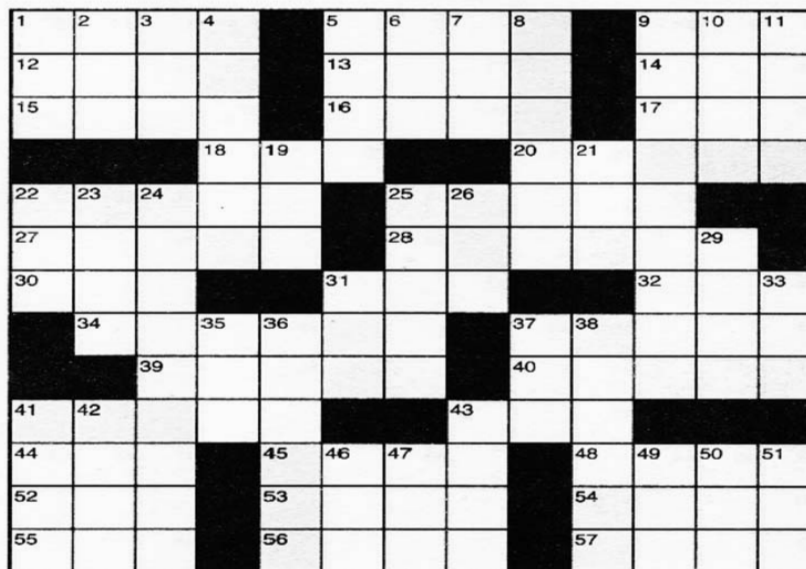
53. Arden et al.
54. "That's ___"
55. Curtain support
56. Colorful salamander
57. Famed English school

DOWN

1. Football coups (abbr.)
2. Came in first
3. Groom's answer (2 wds.)
4. Counts, e.g.
5. Attired
6. Actor Holbrook

7. Target
8. Serious plays
9. Deserted
10. Wrongful act, legally
11. Scary monster
19. New York time (abbr.)
21. Table scrap
22. Cable option (abbr.)
23. New Year's song beginning
24. Cherished
25. Fire starter
26. The boy
29. PBS science program
31. Honolulu

33. Actress Dolores ___
35. Bruins' gp.
36. Make numb
37. Pig's digs
38. Make giggle
41. Prickly ___
42. Passenger car
43. Wren den
46. "___ Been Everywhere"
47. Kitten's "feed me"
49. English ___
50. Mysterious sky sighting (abbr.)
51. Chess pieces



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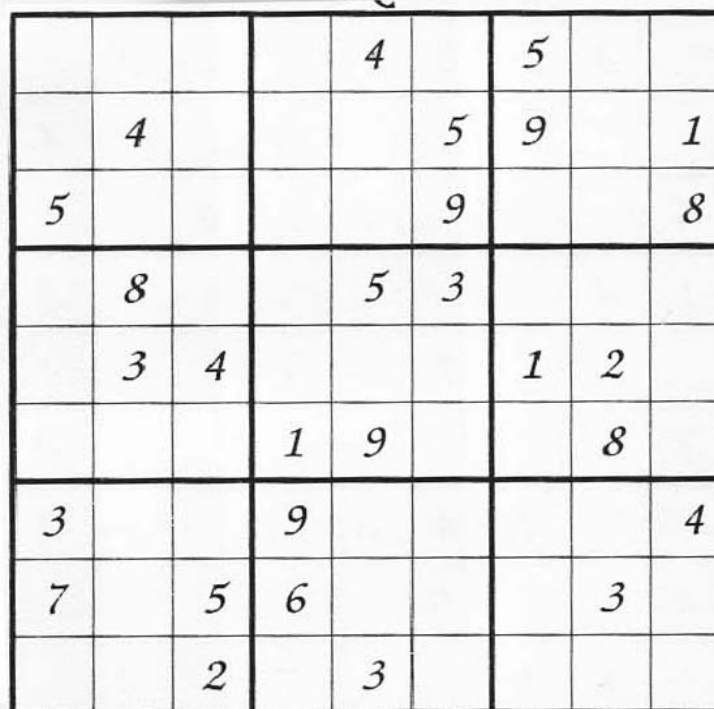
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	1	8	4	5	7	6	3	2
6	5	7	4	8	9	5	1	2
4	8	3	1	2	6	8	9	5
5	8	7	2	6	1	2	5	9
5	2	1	9	4	8	7	6	3
4	6	9	5	3	7	1	8	2
8	7	5	6	1	2	9	3	4
1	4	6	5	9	2	7	8	3
2	9	5	8	7	6	4	1	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

US trims deficit \$83 bn in 8 months

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US trimmed its budget deficit by \$83 billion in the first eight months of fiscal 2012, the Treasury reported Tuesday, as income sped up while spending was basically flat.

The deficit in the October-May period was \$844 billion, nearly 9.0 percent down from a year earlier, helped by a 5.4 percent increase in tax and other receipts to \$1.56 billion.

Spending at \$2.41 billion in the eight months was a bare 0.2 percent lower.

The Treasury said that some calendar-based differences to its operations from last year to this masked a larger, \$101 billion reduction in the deficit during the period.

On Friday Standard & Poor's warned that the United States continues to risk a new downgrade of its credit rating due to the political deadlock

that is preventing a concerted medium-term plan for cutting the deficit.

In its base-case projections, S&P said the fiscal deficit, as a share of gross domestic product, will decline from 10 percent in 2011 to five percent by 2016.

Even at that level, the deficit-GDP ratio "would still be at the high end of the ranges we use to assess sovereigns' fiscal performance."

Italy 'will not need a bailout', says Monti

ROME (AFP) - Italy will not need a bailout to survive the economic debt crisis, Prime Minister Mario Monti said in an interview with German radio on Tuesday, amid fears Rome may be forced to call for aid.

"Italy even in the future will not need aid from the European Financial Stability

Fund," Monti told Public Radio ARD according to Italian media reports.

The former EU commissioner, who has been working hard to deny rumours that Rome is at risk of contagion, called on the markets and financial observers "not to be governed by cliches or prejudices."

"I understand that Italy could have been associated with the idea of an undisciplined country in the past," but "now it is more disciplined than many other European countries," he was quoted as saying.

"Our country pays through its financial contribution ... to support Greece, Portugal, Ireland and now Spain. And now it also pays through extremely high interest rates because of tensions on the markets," he added.

Earlier Tuesday Monti slammed as "totally inappropriate" a suggestion by Austrian Finance Minister Maria Fekter that Italy may be forced to follow stricken Spain into begging for a financial rescue because of its high borrowing costs.

Rome is struggling to allay market fears that it may be next in the debt-crisis firing line in the wake of a bailout for Spanish banks this weekend and ahead of Greece's election Sunday which could force Athens out of the eurozone.

Venezuela calls for Gulf OPEC nations to cut output

Vienna (AFP) - OPEC members in the oil-rich Gulf need to slash their production to help keep crude prices above \$100 per barrel, Venezuela's oil minister said here on Tuesday ahead of the cartel's meeting later this week.

"Some countries in the Gulf have an over production. We are going to discuss that," at the gathering on Thursday, Rafael Ramirez told reporters, cited by Dow Jones Newswires.

"It will have to be reduced... We estimate that we have an over production of 3.0 million barrels a day" above the ceiling of 30 mbpd that was decided in December.

The comments mirror those from Iran, who has also complained that the group is currently pumping too much crude oil.

Oil prices have plunged by about 20 percent in value since March as the market has been shaken by concerns over the impact of the ongoing eurozone sovereign debt crisis and the fragile world economy.

Back in December, OPEC members agreed to hold actual output at 30 mbpd, citing an uncertain demand outlook, with extra unofficial production coming from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya and the United Arab Emirates.

The cartel has however frozen its official output ceiling at 24.84 million barrels per day (mbpd) for more than three years.



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World Bank warns developing countries over Europe

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The World Bank on Tuesday warned developing countries to boost their defenses against Europe's debt crisis, predicting years of volatility in a flailing global economy.

In its semiannual report on worldwide economic conditions, the World Bank forecast the global economy would have "weak growth" of 2.5 percent in 2012, while developing countries' pace would slow to 5.3 percent, the most sluggish rate in the past 10 years.

High-income countries should see a feeble 1.4 percent growth rate this year, burdened with a 0.3 percent contraction in the 17-nation eurozone as the bloc grapples with financial turmoil.

"For all high-income countries, not just Europe, it will take many years to undo the damage that was done in the global financial crisis in 2008 or, more accurately, to address the problems that were created in the boom period before the crisis," said Hans Timmer, head of Development Prospects at the Washington-based bank.

Developing countries have

fewer means to weather shocks to their economies than they had in 2007, before the global financial crisis accelerated, the development lender said.

"Another serious financial crisis is a possibility," Timmer said at a news briefing on the latest Global Economic Prospects report.

If high-income countries continue to grow even slowly, "it is still possible for developing countries to turn out very solid growth rates," he said. "In case of a serious financial crisis, no developing country will be spared."

The United States, the world's largest economy, should have slightly slower growth of 2.1 percent, while Japan, recovering from the 2011 earthquake-tsunami disaster, should expand 2.4 percent, a sharp half point higher than believed six months ago.

China was projected to slow to 8.2 percent from the 8.4 percent pace seen in January.

The banks said that renewed uncertainty in the eurozone had led to a sharp deterioration in financial conditions in May.

US stocks bounce back



NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks bounced back Tuesday, reversing the previous day's losses while shrugging off the specter of more turmoil in Europe.

Commodities and banks led the market higher, while United Technologies was the

Dow's only loser, falling 0.3 percent after announcing a new \$1.0 billion capital raising move to finance its purchase of aircraft equipment maker Goodrich.

At the close the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 162.57 points (1.31 percent) to 12,573.80.

The S&P 500-stock index added 15.25 (1.17 percent) to 1,324.18, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite surged 33.34 points (1.19 percent) to 2,843.07.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

LESS CPA ANDI
 ANEW RAN SOUR
 GENE URN TODO
 TEAS AWOKEN
 SNITCH SIR
 TIN TEL TIGHT
 EKES REG AREA
 RELAY THO OAT
 WEB OCCURS
 DWAYNE STOP
 RAGE NAT MIST
 AVER CAL BEAK
 WEDS HAY OSLO

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of:	Currency	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
06/12/2012	Code			
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.720	1.740	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.700	2.750	2.810
Switzerland	CHF	1.8584	1.8656	1.8736
Netherlands	EUR	2.2139	2.2341	2.2566
Sweden	SEK	0.2421	0.2493	0.2573
Denmark	DKK	0.2909	0.2981	0.3061
Norway	NOK	0.2860	0.2932	0.3012
Japan	JPY	222.28	224.31	226.57

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WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ann Rutherford who played Scarlett's cheery younger sister in the Civil War epic "Gone with the Wind" has died, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday. She was 94. A close friend told the daily that Rutherford died Monday night at her home in Beverly Hills after years of heart problems and declining health. Rutherford also appeared in westerns and as Mickey Rooney's teenage girlfriend in the Andy Hardy film series from 1937 to 1958, and on "The Bob Newhart Show" on television. She was twice married, to department store heir David May II and to William Dozier who produced the 1960s Adam West "Batman" television series. She is survived by a daughter and two grandsons.

Europe's oldest woman dies in France at 114

NANTES (AFP) - The oldest known woman in Europe, French national Marie-Therese Bardet, died Friday days after celebrating her 114th birthday, her retirement home in the western village of Pontchateau said.

Bardet, whose birthday was June 2, was the sixth oldest person in the world, according to the US-based Gerontology Research Group (GRG), which compiles birth certificates of people aged

over 110 years.

There is no official international organisation that provides statistics on "super-centenarians", but the GRG says that it now has 70 of them on its books, with 115-year-old American Besse Cooper at the top of the list.

The GRG lists cover the Americas, Europe, Australia and Japan, but do not include Russia, China or African states.

Chavez honors hero Bolivar with giant mausoleum

CARACAS (AFP) - The remains of Latin American independence hero Simon Bolivar will soon be moved to a modern structure in Caracas that towers over nearby buildings like an enormous ship's sail.

The 50-meter (160-foot) tall structure, covered in white ceramic, was commissioned by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who fancies himself the 19th century revolutionary's ideological heir.

The mausoleum will be accessible through a vestibule connected to the National Pantheon, a much smaller 19th century neo-Gothic church where other Venezuelan heroes are buried.

Known here simply as the "Liberator", Bolivar is a towering figure in Venezuela's history. A portrait of Bolivar adorns buildings throughout the country, and even the national currency is named after him.

Plans are for Bolivar's remains to be placed in a mahogany sarcophagus covered with precious stones that will sit on a simple elevated granite platform under the curved structure. Sunlight will stream in through a single skylight.

Even before it was completed, this wave-shaped building has been a lightning rod for controversy, as its massive size and flashy architectural style clashes with the surrounding buildings.

"It reflects a disproportionate ego -- a distortion in the proportion of things," said Venezuelan architect Oscar Tenreiro, who fretted that the looming mausoleum "minimizes" the nearby pantheon.

-- No need for 'Pharaonic or Napoleonic scale' --

Even the president of the Bolivarian Society of Venezuela, which promotes the work and life of Simon Bolivar, deemed the project off-kilter.

"It was not necessary to build a work on an Pharaonic or Napoleonic scale," said Juan de Dios, regretting that the project had not been the subject of more public debate before it was built.

"Bolivar was neither one nor the other," he said.

Francisco Sesto, a local government official, insisted that the scale and scope of the \$140 million project is appropriate for a figure of Bolivar's stature.

"There has always been a feeling here that Bolivar had to have a mausoleum," he told AFP.

Sesto dismisses criticism as being "politically motivated."

A cherished military and political icon who died in 1830, Bolivar has been a supreme source of inspiration for Chavez, who calls his own efforts to remake his nation after socialist ideals a "Bolivarian revolution."

Chavez also says his country is undergoing its "second and definitive" struggle for independence, after winning its hard-fought war against Spanish colonial rule in 1821.



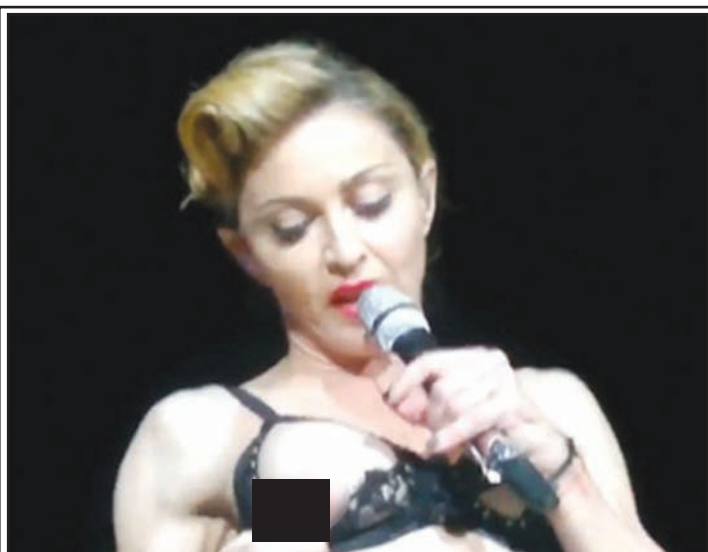
Simón Bolívar, 24 July 1783 to 17 December 1830

In addition to securing independence for Venezuela, Bolivar helped liberate Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia -- a country named in homage to the revolutionary general.

In July 2010 Chavez ordered his hero's remains exhumed to look into a theory that Bolivar was poisoned by his enemies instead of dying of tuberculosis when he was 47, as history books say.

The test results were inconclusive, but the exhumed bones at the time were honored at a sober ceremony at its former site, the National Mausoleum in Caracas. Chavez openly wept over the remains of his hero.

Bolivar's remains are expected to be moved to the new site in July.



Madonna the Queen of Pop is in the headlines again after flashing a nipple at 55,000 fans on her MDNA tour in Turkey. And while some internet users are calling her a complete tit, the video has scooped dozens of thousands of views on YouTube.

Police seek help with photos of Berlin's 'forest boy'



BERLIN (AFP) - Berlin police on Tuesday released a photograph of the mysterious "forest boy" who turned to authorities nine months ago saying he lived in a wood for five years and did not know who he was.

Police in the German capital sent a picture of the smiling blond boy wearing a t-shirt and a gold necklace to news outlets asking for help in getting to the bottom of a story that captured the world's imagination last year.

"Despite the extensive studies and investigations, the youth office and the Berlin police were still not successful in identifying the boy who calls himself 'Ray'," the police statement, which was published in German and English, said.

"Who knows the person shown in this picture? Who can give any information about his identity? Who can give any information about the person's possible relatives?"

Giving his name only as "Ray" and his date of birth as June 20, 1994, the teenager sought help on September 5 at Berlin's City Hall speaking English and just a few words of German.

"He claimed he only knew his date of birth and his first name. He was sent to youth

emergency services," police said. "There he told an adventurous story."

The boy was unable, or refused, to give his family name, birthplace or any other biographical information but said he had spent the last five years living in a forest with his father until he died suddenly in August.

Ray told police he had buried his father "in a hole in the forest underneath some stones" but, after "walking north for five days" to Berlin, could not explain how he had died or where authorities could find his body.

"A corresponding dead body has still not been found," police said.

Ray said his mother "Doreen" had died in a car accident, which he also did not remember, when he was 12 and that he assumed scars on his face were incurred in the crash.

After a brief stint with Berlin's emergency youth services, Ray was placed in an institution for assisted living and assigned a legal guardian.

"The youth office and the Berlin police have great doubts about the boy's story," they said in the police statement.

Police estimate that he is between 16 and 20 years old and said he had blue eyes and was well-groomed with an athletic physique.

He has three scars on his forehead, another three on his chin and one on his right arm.

He was carrying a tent, a sleeping bag, a new-looking backpack and clean clothes when he turned up in Berlin. The chain around his neck had a pendant with the letter "D", which Ray said was for his mother, Doreen.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



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EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

June 8 - July 1



Poland hold Russia to stay in Euro hunt



Poland's Jakub Blaszczykowski scores by Russia's Yuri Zhirkov

WARSAW (AFP) - Euro 2012 co-hosts Poland kept their chances of a quarter-finals berth alive on Tuesday after drawing 1-1 with Russia, put-

In what may be the most politically-charged fixture of the tournament, Poland looked the hungrier team in the first half, launching a series of con-



Polish football fans beat a Russian football fan during clashes in Warsaw. AFP Photo

ting on ice their opponents' hopes of clinching the first slot in the knock-out phase.

The Poles, needing to take at least a point from the Group A match in the wake of their 1-1 tournament opener against Greece on Friday, were keenly aware of Russia's high-octane 4-1 performance against the Czech Republic the same night.

A goal by Alan Dzagoev in the first-half - his third of the tournament - was cancelled out in spectacular fashion in the second-half by Polish captain Kuba Blaszczykowski.

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat praised Poland for their performance but added he was happy with the point.

Russian captain Andrei Arshavin said that while the point was welcome they only had themselves to blame for allowing the Poles back into the game.

vincing attacks on the Russian goal.

Hard work appeared to have paid off when Eugen Polanski moved onto a through ball from lone striker Robert Lewandowski and fired past Vyacheslav Malafeev.

But fans and the Polish bench swung from ecstasy to misery when his 18th-minute shot was ruled offside.

A resurgent Russia picked up the pace, with Arshavin crossing in the 25th minute to Aleksandr Kerzhakov, only for him to miss the target.

Polish keeper Przemyslaw Tyton - whose penalty-saving heroics after he came on as a substitute for red-carded first choice Wojciech Szczesny helped avoid a Polish defeat to Greece - saved a free kick from Arshavin a minute later.

Russia's efforts bore fruit in the 37th minute when rising

star Dzagoev, who notched a double against the Czechs, latched onto an inswinging Arshavin free kick to open the scoring.

The Poles appeared tired, but battled hard, and finally equalised in the 57th minute when Blaszczykowski picked up a cross from Obraniak and fired home a left-footed piledriver.

There were nervous moments for both sides in the remainder of the half, with the noise levels rising in Warsaw's brand-new National Stadium.

Sporting encounters between Poland and Russia are often high pressure, as they feed into centuries of antipathy between the two nations, and the rivalry in the stadium's terraces was palpable from the start of the match.

Tensions had risen in Warsaw beforehand, as police made over 100 of arrests of fans and used water canons to halt brawls between fans from both camps.

With the Czech Republic having beaten Greece 2-1 earlier on Tuesday, Russia top Group A on four points after two amtches with the Czechs second on three points, Poland third on two and Greece fourth on one.

Russia wrap up their group matches against Greece on Saturday, when Poland face the Czechs.

Germany v Netherlands - an enduring rivalry

PARIS (AFP) - Russia versus Poland. England versus France. Germany versus the Netherlands. The opening phase rivalries at Euro 2012 stretch back over the decades in both geopolitical and sporting terms.

Wednesday's meeting between two of Europe's most fluent sides -- three-times winners Germany and 1988 champions the Netherlands -- has been arguably the most intense rivalry of all, going back to their meeting in the 1974 World Cup final.

Then, the Germans won on home soil but on the pitch, the bruised pride of conflicts past can be assuaged.

Prussian military strategist Carl von Clausewitz insisted in his day that "war is merely the continuation of policy by other means", whereas international sport, in the well-worn words of British writer George Orwell, is "war minus the shooting".

Less discussed today is the "1984" and "Animal Farm" author's parallel assertion in his 1945 article "The Sporting Spirit", published in the left-wing magazine Tribune, that "serious sport has nothing to do with fair play."

"It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence."

Even the toughest tacklers in the brawniest team might not necessarily go that far but where the Germans and the Dutch are concerned, their meetings could hardly be confused with a reunion of old friends.

Germany defender Mats Hummels says the Dutch will be fighting for their lives to qualify from the "Group of Death," not just because they are taking on an old enemy and neighbour buoyed by a win over Portugal but after their shock loss to Denmark.

In footballing terms there is little to choose between two sides, who between them won 19 out of 20 qualifiers, with Holland's only loss coming to Sweden after they had already secured their passage to Poland and Ukraine.

But this is a fixture which transcends football -- especially for the Dutch, who were occupied by Nazi German forces for five years during World War II.

Two games in particular demonstrated how, sometimes, the past is not a foreign country but cannot entirely be buried

even by the passage of time.

After their 1974 World Cup final loss, the Dutch, who had been expected to win even though the Germans were the competition hosts, felt desolate, midfielder Wim van Hanegem in particular.

"They (the Nazis) murdered my father, sister and two brothers. I am full of angst. I hate them," he said afterwards about losing his relatives during the war.

In later years, van Hanegem would modify those sentiments but the hatred was still not far below the surface 14 years later when the Dutch, en route to winning their only continental title to date, knocked tournament hosts the Germans out of Euro 88.

On that occasion, banners could be seen in the stands in Hamburg reading "Grandma, I found your bike" -- an allusion to the fact that Nazi troops confiscated bikes during the occupation.

After stalemate in the 1978 World Cup, when Holland lost in the final to hosts Argentina, Germany beat their rivals on the way to lifting the European Championship in 1980 but that game was marred by some ugly challenges.

"They hate us so much more than we hate them," lamented German midfield star Karl-Heinz Foerster.

But, 33 years after World War II ended, 1988 in Hamburg was a sporting liberation for the Dutch, who then conquered the Soviet Union in the final.

The ill-feeling still persisted through to the 1990 World Cup when both sets of fans jeered each other's anthems before German striker Rudi Voeller and Dutch midfielder Frank Rijkaard were sent off and Voeller then spat at his rival.

Time has healed some wounds, coinciding with some relatively unsuccessful German teams giving their fans little to crow about.

German singer Mickie Krause, though, raised a few heckles with a recent song which translates as only the trash collectors wear orange -- an indirect jibe at Holland's famous kit.

Nonetheless, after losing to the Danes the Dutch are only too painfully well aware that if they lose on Wednesday they will be going home early. And if there is one team they do not want to put them out, it's Germany.

RESULTS EURO 2012

GROUP A

Czech Rep. 2, Greece 1
Poland 1, Russia 1
Poland 1, Greece 1
Russia 4, Czech Rep 1

GROUP B

Denmark 1, Neth. 0
Germany 1, Portugal 0

GROUP C

Spain 1, Italy 1
Croatia 3, Ireland 1

GROUP D

England 1, France 0
Ukraine 2, Sweden 1

WEDNESDAY'S

Matches

GROUP B

Denmark vs Portugal
(12 noon)

Netherlands vs. Germany (2:45 p.m.)



Bonaire AWG 372,17
(all taxes included)

Las Piedras AWG 405,63
(all taxes included*)

Curacao AWG 317,25
(all taxes included)

Maracaibo AWG 862,03
(all taxes included)

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Golf: McIlroy ready to defend at US Open

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - It has been a curious last few weeks for Rory McIlroy as he prepares to achieve what no man has done in 23 years -- successfully defend the US Open.

The last man to do so was Curtis Strange in 1989, but such was the convincing manner of the Northern Irishman's eight-stroke victory at Congressional last year, that many believed he was capable of back-to-back wins.

Three missed cuts in recent tournaments though have cast doubts on his current form. Although he showed improved form at the St Jude Classic in Memphis last week, a poor

finish was not the best way to come into The Olympic Club.

The 23-year-old world number two believes that getting in the extra tournament play ahead of the year's second major -- when he's usually taking time off to prepare -- fits the bill this time around.

"It's not like it was my fourth tournament in a row and I've been in contention for four weeks in a row and it drains you and takes a lot out of you mentally and physically," he said.

Prior to Memphis, McIlroy spent some time getting pointers from golf legend Jack Nicklaus and he also spent a few days testing the changes made to the tough Olympic Club layout in San Francisco.

Asked if he agreed with some of the players who rate the par-70 course as one of the most difficult US Open venues in years, McIlroy replied: "I'm not sure, I've only played three.

"Congressional and Bethpage were very similar (to

each other), they were both very wet, long, tree lined, parklike golf courses.

"This is a little more similar to Pebble (Beach). It has that feeling about it, just with being on the coast and sort of the cool air and stuff.

One player who believes that McIlroy made the correct decision in playing in the

Memphis tournament is Tiger Woods, who has also blown hot and cold this year.

The world number four, who is bidding to join Nicklaus, Ben Hogan, Bobby Jones and Willie Anderson as the only four-time US Open champions, said that McIlroy would gain in confidence from his showing last week.

Clemens trial continues from page 16

If convicted, Clemens could face 30 years in prison and a fine of \$1.5 million, although sentencing guidelines would suggest he receive somewhere between 15 and 21 months behind bars.

The trial was first attempted last July but declared a mistrial after prosecutors introduced evidence that had been disallowed. The retrial has taken more than eight weeks and 26 days of testimony.

As at the 2008 hearing, the main issue of dispute comes down to differing accounts by Clemens and his former trainer, Brian McNamee, who says he injected Clemens with steroids over four years and human growth hormone in 2000.

Clemens told Congress that injections from McNamee were for vitamin B12 and an anesthetic, but Guerrero said that was a cover story Clemens created to avoid disgracing his legendary career.

Hardin attacked the government for even bringing the matter to trial, calling it outrageous, and challenged McNamee's credibility over claims of mistakes or bad memory for conflicts in state-

ments.

"Saying that Brian McNamee lies zero times is kind of like calling the Grand Canyon a ditch," Hardin said.

Even Guerrero called McNamee a "flawed man" and told jurors, "We're not asking you to even like him. Brian McNamee did a lot of things that aren't nice and we know that."

Former Clemens teammate Andy Pettitte, still with the Yankees, said it was "50-50" whether he misunderstood Clemens in a discussion where he had testified that Clemens told him about taking human grown hormones, but Guerrero tried to spin that into one friend looking out for another.

Clemens won 354 games in a 24-year career that saw him win seven Cy Young Awards as the top pitcher in his league. Nicknamed "Rocket," he is one of only four pitchers to have recorded more than 4,000 strikeouts in his career.

Clemens won the World Series twice with the New York Yankees, in 1999 and 2000. He also played for Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays and Houston Astros.

EURO-2012 Standings

A						
	W	L	PTS	GF	GA	D
RUSSIA	1	0	4	5	2	1
CZECH REP.	1	1	3	3	5	0
POLAND	0	0	2	2	2	2
GREECE	0	1	1	2	3	1
B						
GERMANY	1	0	3	1	0	0
DENMARK	1	0	3	1	0	0
NETHERLANDS	0	1	0	0	1	0
PORTUGAL	0	1	0	0	1	0
C						
CROATIA	1	0	3	3	1	0
SPAIN	0	0	1	1	1	1
ITALY	0	0	1	1	1	1
IRELAND	0	1	0	1	3	0
D						
UKRAINE	1	0	3	2	1	0
ENGLAND	0	0	1	1	1	1
FRANCE	0	0	1	1	1	1
SWEDEN	0	1	0	1	2	0

W: Won - L: Lost - PTS: points - GF: goals for - GA: goals against
D: Draw

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Baseball: Closing arguments made in Clemens trial



Clemens is guilty of perjury, making false statements and obstructing Congress for his comments in a hearing that followed his being named in a December 2007 report on doping in Major League Baseball.

"He chose to lie. He chose to mislead," prosecutor Gil Guerrero said. "He chose to provide false statements, to impede Congress' legitimate investigation."

"Now it's your turn to hold him accountable on every single count. You are the final umpires here."

Clemens attorney Rusty Hardin claimed the government conducted 235 interviews with 179 people in seeking evidence against Clemens and produced nothing to incriminate his client.

"Not one single blankety-blank piece of evidence after all of this effort," Hardin said. "Not one single bit of evidence for 4 1/2 years of anybody other than Brian McNamee connecting Roger Clemens to steroids and HGH."

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Prosecutors made their final argument against Roger Clemens on Tuesday while lawyers for the former Major League Baseball star attacked the key witness against him in his perjury trial.

The final summations by attorneys for both sides set the stage for jury deliberations to decide whether or not Clemens was lying when he said under oath to US lawmakers in 2008 that he never took performance-enhancing drugs.

Eight women and four men are set to determine if

continues on page 15

Second Accuser Testifies in Sandusky Trial

BELLEFONTE, The second day of testimony in the trial of Jerry Sandusky, former Penn State assistant football coach, began with several heavy accusations coming from one man only known as "Victim 1."

The young man, the second accuser, who is now 18, tearfully told jurors that the former Penn State assistant football coach performed oral sex on him after meeting him through his charity, the Second Mile, when he was 10 or 11. He told jurors Sandusky would fondle him, kiss him and ultimately engaged in a sex act with him.

The next witness to take the stand was former Penn State graduate assistant coach Mike McQueary, who is expected to offer crucial testimony. McQueary has told prosecutors he saw Sandusky sexually assaulting yet another boy, known as Victim 2, in February 2001 in a locker room. Victim 2 has not been found by authorities.

McQueary is an important prosecution witness because he's an adult testifying to an alleged sex act by Sandusky. Two of the witnesses so far



have been alleged victims recounting what they said happened to them when they were children years ago. In cross-examination, the defense has questioned their memory and their motives.

During cross-examination, Sandusky attorney Joe Amendola asked the teen whether he had financial motives for bringing his accusations.

"All I know is I'm here to tell the truth about what happened to me, just like everybody else," he replied.

Sandusky, 68, the former defensive coordinator for the Penn State football team, sat hunched forward at the defense table, his back to the courtroom. If convicted on all counts, he faces a sentence of more than 500 years in prison.



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